

Appl. No. 10/064,044
Amdt. dated December 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 27, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner:

5 Claims 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15 and 17 are allowed.

Response:

10 The Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the allowance of the above-cited claims. Therefore, without disclaimer of any kind regarding the merits of any claim, the following amendments have been made to independent claims 1 and 8.

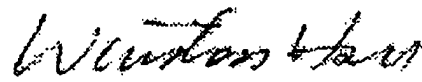
15 All limitations of allowed claim 18 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, on which claim 18 previously depended. Additionally, all limitations of allowed claim 20, along with limitations comprised by intervening claim 9, have been incorporated into independent claim 8, on which claim 20 previously depended. Claims 9, 18, and 20 have been cancelled. No new material has been introduced.

20 Because the Examiner has stated that these amendments would be allowable, the Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance as required, and respectfully requests reconsideration and reception of a timely Notice of Allowance should the Examiner concur.

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Sincerely yours,

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